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### Regional Design: what kind of performance?

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*Published in:*

Conference: Shaping regional futures: Mapping, designing, transforming. Munich, October 14-15 2015

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*Document Version*

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

*Publication date:*

2015

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*

van Dijk, T. (2015). Regional Design: what kind of performance? In *Conference: Shaping regional futures: Mapping, designing, transforming. Munich, October 14-15 2015*

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# Regional Design: what kind of performance?

*Shaping regional futures*  
TUM/TUD October 14-15 2015

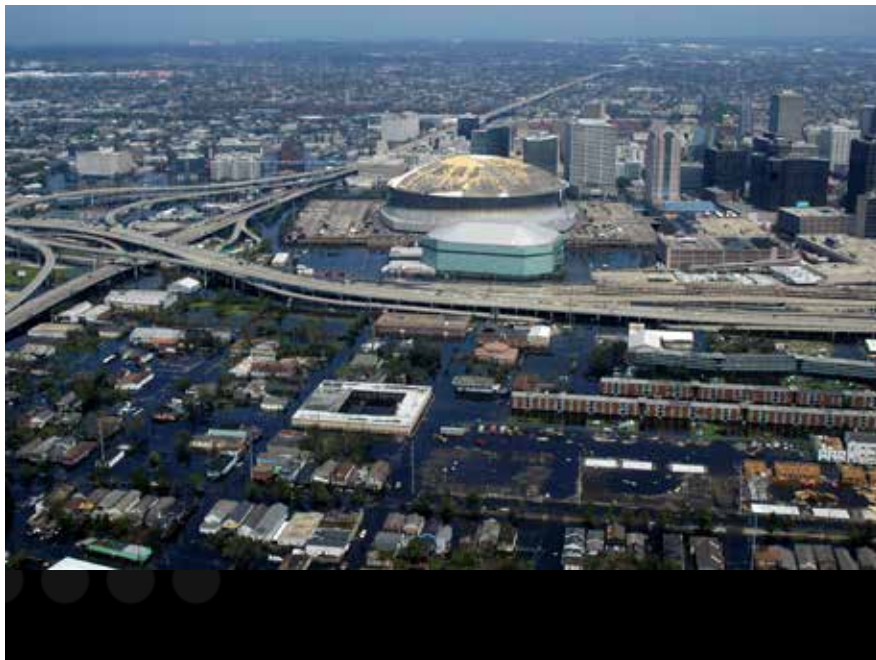
- An intriguing case
- The communicative tragedy
- Designers have a mission
- The story and the system
- A conceptual model

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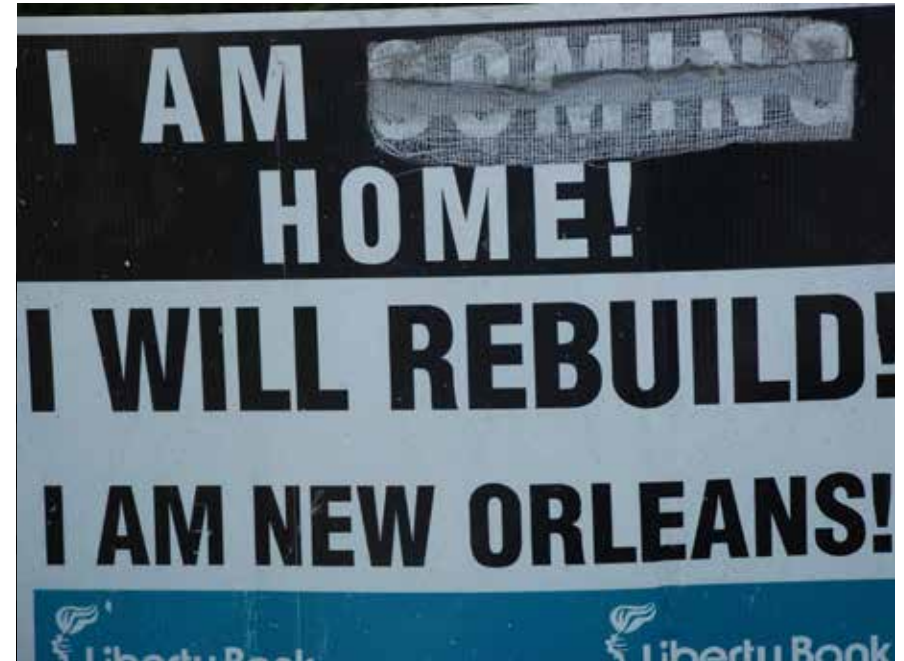
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How to choose a rebuilding strategy?

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## Mississippi delta



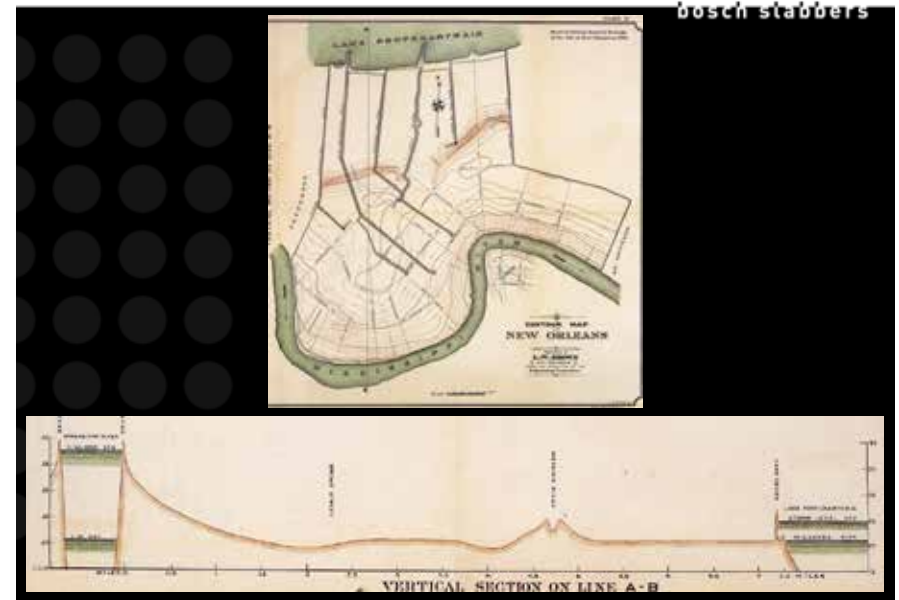
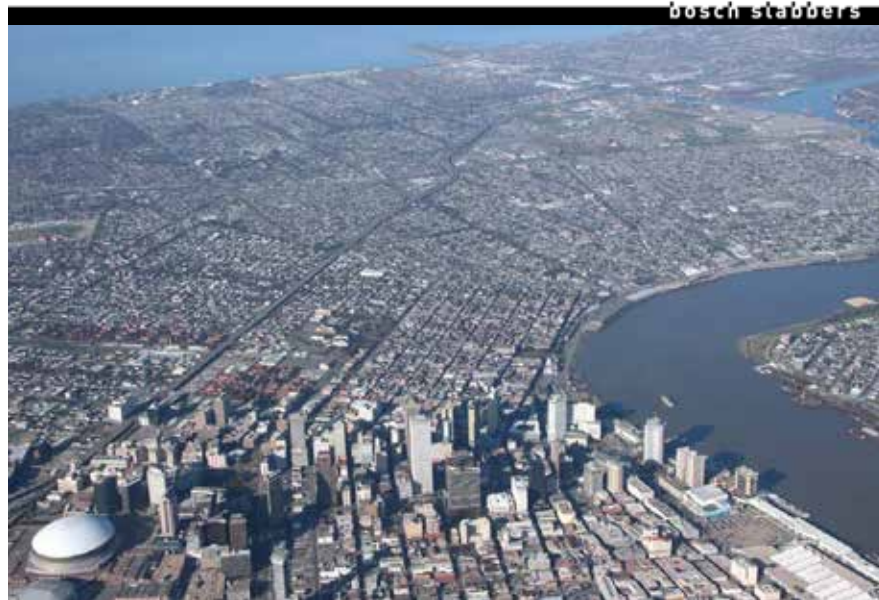
Length: 3.734 km  
 Drainage basin: 3.226.300km<sup>2</sup>  
 Average discharge: 17.704m<sup>3</sup>/s  
 Maximum discharge: 28.161m<sup>3</sup>/s  
 Delta size: 25.000km<sup>2</sup>

## New Orleans 1798





## New Orleans 1895



## The development of a drainage system











## New Orleans: rigid protection structures, water is invisible



**New Orleans: rigid protection structures, water is invisible**

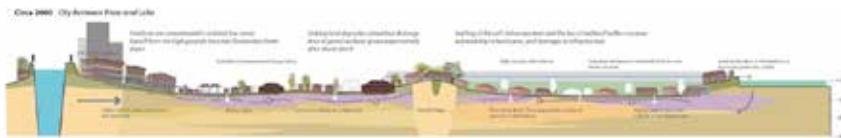


## Looking at layers...

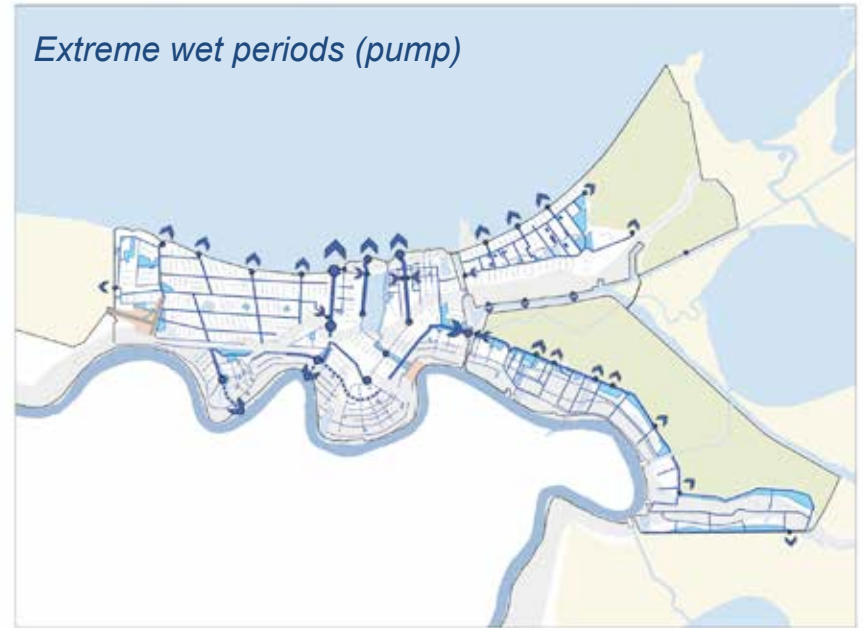




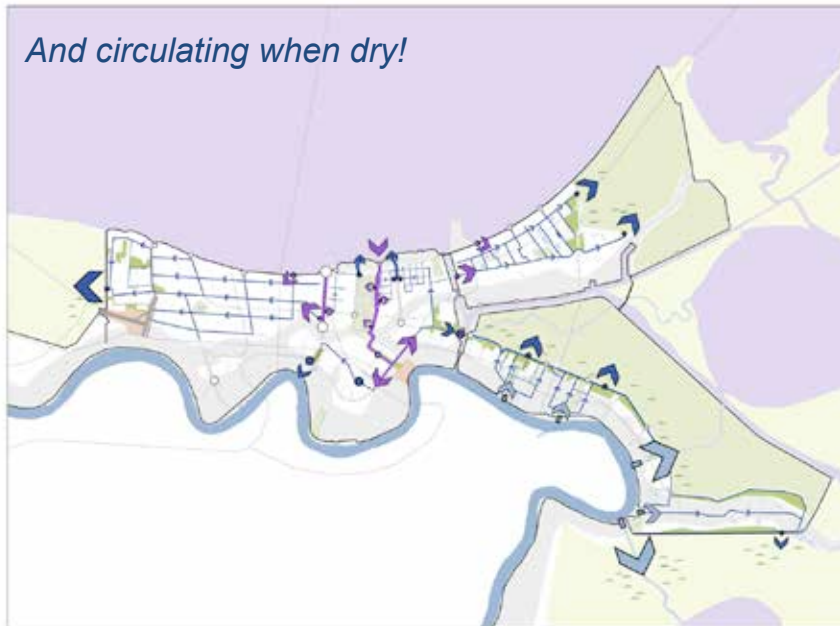
2000



*Extreme wet periods (pump)*



*And circulating when dry!*



*With recommendations per basin*





*Using Designs and visuals*



*Not only designs that work but that also add quality*



*Not only designs that work but that also add quality*

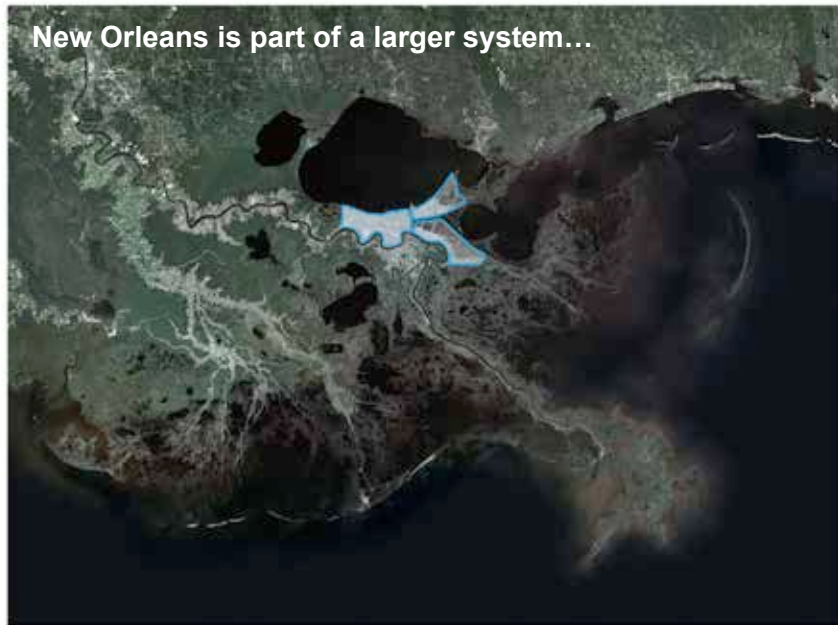






New Orleans: rigid protection structures, water is invisible





## ... with a long history of delta development (nature and human)



ca 4000 BC  
Lake Pontchartrain is still dry land, the New Orleans crescent has not yet risen out of the Gulf of Mexico. What would become New Orleans is under water



ca 2600 BC  
Sea level rises to its modern day elevation after melting glaciers, creating the small island known as "Pine Island" and forms a bay which would become Lake Pontchartrain



ca 2300 BC  
300 years later the Mississippi river changes course towards New Orleans, pine island barrier enlarges westward and Pontchartrain bay keeps growing



ca 2000 BC  
The Mississippi River expands to the east, its sediment forms the St. Bernard Delta and encloses Pontchartrain Bay



ca 1000 BC  
The St. Bernard Delta continues to grow, stretching as far east as the present-day Chandeleur Islands.



ca 0  
The river switches west, robbing the St. Bernard Delta of its sediment. The resulting landloss creates the modern day chandeleur islands

## ... with a long history of delta development (nature and human)



ca 1000  
1,000 years later, the river again changes direction and turns east and south, beginning to create the modern birdfoot delta.



ca 1718  
The city is founded in 1718: Three centuries of swamp draining and levee and canal building begins



ca 1900  
Humans and nature have cut away at Louisiana's coastline



ca 2000  
between 1932 and 2000, 2000 square miles of land disappear due to construction of levees & jetties, canals and channels, land subsidence, saltwater intrusion, invasive species and sea-level rise



ca 2005  
Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have washed away a further 217 square miles of land



ca 2020  
700 more square miles could disappear by 2020 if landloss is continued unchecked

## Where we focus on the water issues within the city boundary/ limits







## Regional Design: what kind of performance?

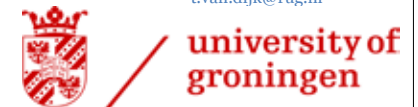


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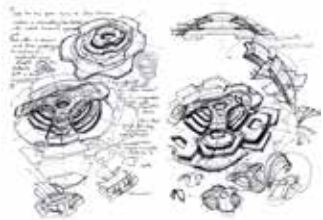
- Communicative tragedy:
  - Giving what individuals want now?
  - or: what they collectively need tomorrow?

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- Designers have a mission:
  - Listen to people
  - Listen to the site: past/present/future
  - Explore solution space
  - Educate the people

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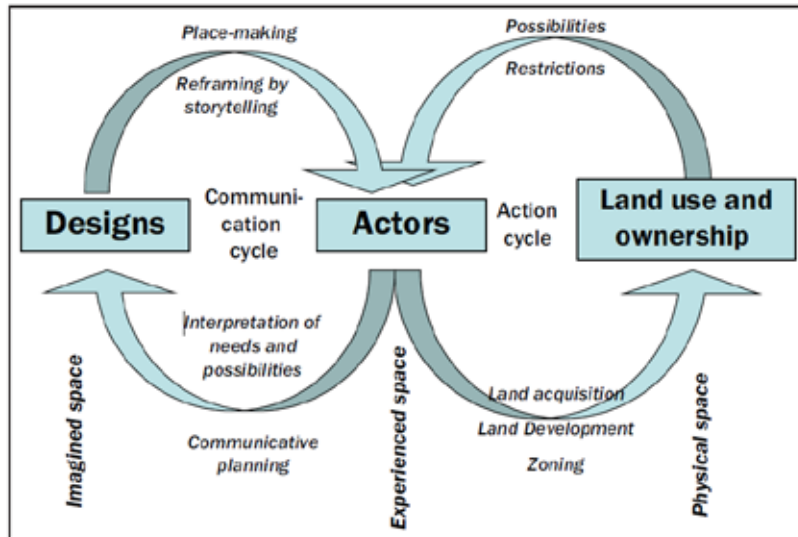
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- The story and the system:
  - every story
  - is interpreted against existing frames
  - and always transformed
  - go with the flow and bend the trends

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- Performance =  
Produce the stories people *need* to hear  
Resist telling what people *want* to hear

Further reading:

- Van Dijk, T., Weitkamp, S.G. *et al* (2015) **What defines success when visions compete: lessons from post-Katrina New Orleans.** *International Planning Studies* (under review)
- Van Dijk, T. and Van der Vlist, A. (2014) **Landownership and plans: when regional designs unleash private and public land acquisition.** *Urban Studies* DOI: 10.1177/0042098014544764
- Rauws, W. and Van Dijk, T. (2013) **A design approach to forge visions that amplify paths of peri-urban development.** *Environment and Planning B* 40(2), pp. 254-270
- Van Dijk, T. and Weitkamp, G. (2013) **Power in dreams? The spatial effects of Chicago's failed Olympic bid.** *International Planning Studies* 19(2), pp. 111-131
- Van Dijk, T. (2011) **Imagining future places: how designs co-constitute what is, and thus influence what will be.** *Planning Theory* 10(2), pp. 124-143